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Trashing of Desks in University Hall

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Senate Executive Committee Request for Information

Trashing of desks in University Hall

Submitted by: Leigh Rich

12/16/2019

Question(s):

1. Working desks throughout University Hall recently have been placed in dumpsters and smashed down/broken up by an earth mover; how does this uphold Strategic Pillar #4 (with regard to both financial and environmental sustainability)?

Rationale:

Multiple areas of the university's budget have experienced cuts, many faculty and staff have only just had salaries raised to 70% of the median in their disciplines, and students and others are concerned about the costs of higher education. One of Georgia Southern's five strategic pillars is "Pillar 4: Operational Efficiency, Effectiveness and Sustainability: Georgia Southern University will implement robust policies, procedures, and practices to ensure current and future sustainability, highlighting financial management, risk management, and employee satisfaction," while Pillar 5 speaks to "Community Engagement." What assessment was completed and by whom that determined that these desks should be thrown into dumpsters? How much has the trashing and replacement of desks cost? How old were these desks in university Hall? (How old was the furniture in the Student Union that was similarly trashed in dumpsters at the beginning of the Fall 2019 term?) Was a more environmentally sustainable approach considered before taking these actions?

Response:

SEC Response: Approval of RFI.

Response from Rob Whitaker, VP for Business and Finance

1/23/2020

RFI – Trashing of desks in University Hall.

Response:

The university makes strategic investments when funding is available through our end of year process to upgrade and enhance our learning environments. The University Hall project is an example of our efforts. Some of the equipment being replaced was original to the building when it was built. This investment will also create more flexible learning environments with the new furniture.

The University Surplus Property team was engaged in this project to ensure that we followed all state rules and regulations around disposal of state assets. Additionally, this group has launched a new surplus property marketplace where slightly used equipment can be shared with all university departments and offices. This is an example of how we demonstrate our goal of sustainability.

The marketplace can be viewed at the following link:

https://touchnet.georgiasouthern.edu/C20795_ustores/web/store_main.jsp?STOREID=155&SINGLESTORE=true

or

<https://finserv.georgiasouthern.edu/procurement/procurement-and-contract-services/property-control-surplus-control/surplus-property/>